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Application No.: 09/960,758
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PATENT

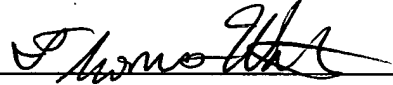
REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-18, 20-21, 23-40, 42-53 and 54-59 will be pending, with claims 1, 33 and 47 being the independent claims. In the Official Action, dated January 14, 2005, claim 22 was objected to for improperly providing the motivation for a particular limitation. Without conceding the propriety of such objection, claim 22 has been canceled herein without prejudice.

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on Peters et al. (US Patent No. 5,563,962), without conceding the propriety of the outstanding rejection, Applicant has rewritten the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 19, 41 and 54, into independent form by incorporating such subject matter into independent claims 1, 33 and 47, respectively, and by canceling claims 19, 41 and 54 accordingly.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action, and submits that Claims 1-18, 20-21, 23-40, 42-53 and 54-59 of the application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience is earnestly solicited.

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